

## PREFATORY

This book is merely a personal narrative, and not a pretentious history or a philosophical dissertation. It is a record of several years of variegated vagabondizing.

There is information in the volume; information concerning an interesting episode in the history of the Far West. I allude to the rise, growth and culmination of the silver-mining fever in Nevada.

## CHAPTER I.

My brother had just been appointed Secretary of Nevada Territory—an office of such majesty that it concentrated in itself the duties and dignities of Treasurer, Comptroller, Secretary of State, and Acting Governor in the Governor's absence. A salary of eighteen hundred dollars a year and the title of "Mr. Secretary," gave to the great position an air of wild and imposing grandeur.

*Aquí "such" indica un grado extremo.  
En cuanto a "wild" indicaría también un nivel disparatado.*

I was young and ignorant, and I envied my brother.

What I suffered in contemplating his happiness, pen cannot describe. And so, when he offered me, in cold blood, the sublime position of private secretary under him, it appeared to me that the heavens and the earth passed away. I had nothing more to desire.

*"So" conecta con la oración anterior: "así que", "por lo tanto".*

At the end of an hour or two I was ready for the journey. Not much packing up was necessary, because we were going in the overland stage from the Missouri frontier to Nevada, and passengers were only allowed a small quantity of baggage apiece.

*"Overland" significa "por tierra" (en oposición al medio acuático).  
"Stage" (etapa) aquí significa "stagecoach" (diligencia).*

I only proposed to stay in Nevada three months. I little thought that I would not see the end of that three-month pleasure excursion for six or seven uncommonly long years!

Next day, we took shipping at the St. Louis wharf on board a steamboat bound up the Missouri River.

*"To take ship" significaría "tomar un barco", "embarcarse".  
"Bind" quiere decir "unir" "ligar". Aquí "Bind up" se puede ver como "conectar".*

We were six days going from St. Louis to "St. Jo".